

Assistive Technology Workshop

Week 1 - Talking Word Processors

Week 2 - Kurzweil

Week 3 - Dragon, Clicker

Week 1

- going to get Dragon 10 on image for reimage; only problem is have to save voice files on flash drives (from school computers)
- school's responsibility to get headphones
- can order headphones from Board for under \$20

Write Out Loud:

- when open up, go to Tools and select Cue Spelling each time but this will pick up every error so may choose to leave off
- abc icon helps correct
- bibliographer (bars) good for late Juniors/Intermediates; gives examples of how to write a bibliography and can save bibliographies completed

How else can it be used?

- download AlphaSmart work into Write Out Loud and it can be read back
- download and copy from web/folder and paste into Write Out Loud (Control V; highlight and can be read back)
- insert pictures; change caption by double clicking on it
- can set colour backgrounds using paint icon
- can set voice, and speech patterns using Speech icon

Teacher Sign In

- enter teacher sign in
- user is teacher and password is school
- content management system; provide template for all
- can add/delete students
- can assign to all or only those needed (differentiated!); student preferences -- student documents -- assign

Ideas:

- copy and paste class tests/assignments into Write Out Loud
- cloze passages

- manage students and preview documents

Write Out Loud & CoWriter

- open up CoWriter
- Intermediate student covers 2-8 and click on sentence window
- open up More Commands
- must go to Settings -- Prediction -- check Auto Hide and OK
- CoWriter provides word prediction, reads individual words when move mouse onto each predicted word and click on chosen word
- once sentence is complete (with punctuation) then will send it to Write Out Loud and be read again
- if want to change and allow for paragraph before sending into Write Out Loud by going to Settings -- Prediction -- Display -- Paragraph Window
- in Settings, can change other stuff
- go to Topic Dictionaries and can Select; allow for selected topics and predicted words will reflect chosen dictionary
- can create own vocabulary -- create in Word/Word Perfect and send to Class Folder in image; students can access vocabulary by opening

For SEA computers:

- have WordQ (similar to CoWriter)

Week 2

Kurzweil

- Kate and Paul most realistic human voice
- most use sentence or continuous, very rarely use word by word for pacing
- change speed of text; keep in mind some are ADHD and auditory and like speed to be high (200 words per minute)
- when enter Kurzweil, open up New Document and work as in Write Out Loud; words will be read to you as you type
- can click on Word Prediction Icon (crystal ball) and prediction box will stay up as you write and predict words; words can be read as clicked on; words that are highlighted are homonyms, synonyms, etc... click on twice to get meaning
- find Kurzweil CASI stories and questions at www.tech2learn.wikispaces.com
- can edit document if words not pronounced correctly or if reading page numbers etc... Go to EDIT - CHANGE UNDERLYING WORD/TEXT or Go to SCAN - ZONE EDITOR - DELETE ALL ZONES - ADD ZONE: use as text box and highlight what

needs to be read and in what order; then when save say YES to recognize page to save changes

- can highlight words and extract annotations; Go to FILE - EXTRACT ANNOTATIONS

- can extract highlights Go to FILE - EXTRACT - HIGHLIGHTS TO COLUMN NOTES

- can write in answers to questions using TOOLS - FILL IN THE BLANKS and it will put text boxes for every question with lines; if no lines, then can add text by clicking on TEXT icon

- open up PREDICTION icon; click on TRAIN and it will prompt you to put in the vocab from the text

- restate question; highlight words, click and drag into text box

- can add a STICKY NOTE if wanted to add a connection or note to self

- can add a VOICE NOTE for oral answers

Victor Readers

- come with a disk and book that are helpful to listen to

- can buy splitters at \$ store and can connect more than one headset so multiple kids can use

- changes speed and pace but not tone

- can bookmark page so student doesn't lose spot

Week 3

Dragon:

- Dragon 8 on image; Dragon 10 will be on reimage

- create user (English US)

- go through steps of training but have students just count instead of reading for volume check and quality check until hear beep; taking in environmental noise

- encourage students to do volume and quality check each time they start Dragon as environmental noise will change each time -- GO TO TOOLS -- ACCURACY CENTER -- CHECK AUDIO SETTINGS

- continue with training... some students will have difficulty reading and will need an adult to sit beside them and whisper each word to them so they can read it into the mic

- above process takes about 10-15 minutes

- need to open Dragon Pad under TOOLS or can set it to automatically come on -- GO TO TOOLS -- MISC -- check launch Dragon Pad -- APPLY -- OK

- GO TO TOOLS - OPTIONS and check Spell, Playback and Double-click (for corrections) and APPLY -- OK
- Hot Keys: GO TO TOOLS -- OPTIONS and select HOT KEYS; click mic on/off and click on F8, click on corrections and click on F11 -- APPLY -- OK
- can automatically put in periods and commas; GO TO TOOLS -- OPTIONS -- FORMATTING and check automatically add commas and periods -- APPLY -- OK
- corrections; move cursor to beginning of word and double-click, then hit arrow key to move along to other words; this will be in the voice that dictated
- if want to hear the whole written passage, go to beginning, click SOUND -- PLAY THAT BACK; again, this will be in voice that is dictated
- if want computer voice to read back, then click on SOUND -- READ THAT
- can go and edit document in Dragon Pad
- good to do accuracy training with student by using composition questions; however, this isn't the time to edit as training computer -- not the student that needs training; it's the machine!
- can import and export files to flash drive; GO TO NATURALLY SPEAKING -- MANAGE USERS -- ADVANCED -- import/export
- everything you do in Dragon can be a command

*have kids preplan what they are going to say

*close monitor or block screen so they can get their thoughts out and not be

*have other students sit in SEA training; just let parents know (both) and trainer